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1876

REPORTS

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

AND BOARD OF AUDITORS,

OF THE

TOWN OF COLEBROOK, N. H.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

MARCH 1, 1876.



COLEBROOK:

PRINTED AT "THE SENTINEL" JOB PRINTING OFFICE,
1876.

DATE IN
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SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Colebrook, in Annual Meeting assembled, March 14, 1876.

In making the Annual Report required by law, I hardly expect to add any thing to what has been so often said by myself in former Reports and by others before me, and I have very little idea that any suggestion will be heeded, as you have become accustomed to taking the report of the S. S. Committee as you take any other sermonizing, with the idea that it is an excellent thing for everybody but the reader. However, I desire to call your attention to a few points and ask for them your careful consideration.

There are several reasons why the money expended for schools in this town, as in all others, does not accomplish what it ought, and prominent among the causes are tardiness and absence from school a half day or a day at a time. The pupil who is habitually tardy or late at school in the morning, not only loses the time which he should have utilized, but he is the cause of loss of time to others. When the pupil enters late, the teacher if he does his duty, must waste a little time in inquiring into the cause of his tardiness and so divert and distract the remaining pupils, and when half a dozen have been late in a half a day, just so much time has been wasted for the whole school. Fortunately or unfortunately, I am unable to say which, teachers are very little inclined to investigate the causes of tardiness, and consequently the evil increases from day to day. But there is perhaps a greater evil result to the habitually tardy pupil. He acquires the habit of being late in everything and goes through life a little behind-hand, and it is quite probable to my mind that such a person will in the end be too late to step in where "St. Peter guards the gate." But

a still greater evil is the absence of pupils a half day or a day each week. The farmer who hires a laborer for the season expects him to work every day, and nothing is more discouraging than when important work needs to be done, to have the workman absent himself for a day or two and let the work get behind. The pupil that keeps up with his class when at school, if absent but half a day loses one lesson and stands at a disadvantage with his mates. If often absent, he not only loses his lesson but his ambition also, and falls hopelessly in the rear. When part of the links are gone the chain becomes worthless.

About 68,000 scholars were enrolled upon the registers of 1874-5 but the average attendance was only 48,000, only about 70 per cent. of the whole number enrolled. Thirty per cent. of the whole amount of knowledge that might have been acquired, hopelessly lost!

Should not every parent see to it, that his children go to school in season and go every day. This cannot be impressed too strongly upon every parent who cares for the success and education of his children.

If the foregoing evils can be remedied a long stride will be made towards the advancement of our common schools.

During the past year I have made about sixty-five visits to the schools in town, and have endeavored to find out if I could their wants and necessities. One of the greatest defects in the management and teaching is a lack of thoroughness in the elementary branches of study. The classes in arithmetic are sadly deficient in a knowledge of notation and numeration, and I doubt if there is a class of advanced pupils in town, in arithmetic, who will write down a series of twenty numbers given orally and not make an error. This is only an illustration, and there are many other things in which they fail at the beginning. I would recommend to the teachers of the coming year to start fair, and allow no pupil to go beyond anything he does not thoroughly understand. I append a brief account of the various schools in town the past year.

DISTRICT NUMBER ONE, (VILLAGE.)

This school is divided into three grades or sets of scholars, graded as well as possible by age and acquirements. It is a difficult

matter so to divide this school so that it will class as it should, but a measurable degree of success has been reached. The amount of school money belonging to this district the past year was \$531.09.

Higher Department.—The summer school of nine weeks was taught by Miss S. Melinda Aldrich, a veteran teacher and uniformly successful in her labors. The school appeared profitable as well as pleasant.

The winter school of nine weeks was under the charge of Arthur D. Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins had charge of the academy during the fall term and carried many of his pupils directly along in their studies. A little breeze ruffled the surface for a few days but it passed and the school closed successfully, Mr. Jenkins reports sixty-four different scholars with an average attendance of only forty-six. Is there not an excellent chance for improvement in this respect? He also reports one hundred and nineteen instances of tardiness.

Intermediate Department.—Both the summer and winter schools in this department were taught by Miss Angeline Lovering. Miss Lovering reports in her register that she has taught one hundred and twenty-eight months of school, and as a great portion of the time has been spent in this town it is needless to comment on her popularity. She succeeds admirably in her department.

Primary Department.—Both the summer and winter terms were under the instruction of Miss Nettie J. Bean; each term occupied nine weeks. The children in this department are a sight to behold, with none more than eight years old, and from that age downward; it may well be called an infant school. Miss Bean succeeded well in keeping the little ones under restraint and giving them an opportunity to reach the lowest branches on the tree of knowledge.

DISTRICT NUMBER TWO, (PIPER.)

Summer term of ten weeks was taught by Miss Almeda E. Garfield, a young and inexperienced teacher, but she succeeded beyond my expectations and on the whole did herself much credit.

Winter term of ten weeks under the instruction of Allen L. Knights, a very ambitious teacher. Some elements of discord seemed to arise at one time in this district, but the law came down on the offender

and peace again settled upon the district. The school house is sadly in need of repair and it is surprising that the enterprise of the voters does not work out something for their children in the shape of a suitable place to go to school. Amount of School money, \$115.79.

DISTRICT NUMBER THREE, (FACTORY.)

Summer term of eight weeks by Miss Sallie A. Marshall, a very excellent teacher, and the school was a success. Miss Marshall reports sixteen scholars with an average of fourteen, showing much better than many schools in town.

Winter term of eight weeks by Miss Hattie W. Adgate, who, though just commencing as a teacher was very profitable to the district. It is to be hoped she will continue the vocation and in this town, as experience will make her one of our very best teachers.

This district is to be congratulated on their school house and on the interest they manifest for the success of their schools. With such aids all the schools would be much more successful. Amount of school money, \$89.59

DISTRICT NUMBER FOUR, (REED.)

Summer school of eight weeks by Miss. Jennie E. Fletcher, who in a quiet and unobtrusive way, gains the love and respect of the pupils. The pupils in this school are young, the older ones who formerly composed one of the very best schools in town having given place to others who will one of these days make their places good. There is excellent material here and it is one of the few schools in town that never make any trouble.

Winter term of eight weeks by Miss Nettie J. Bean who kept her reputation as a teacher up to its standard. The school made good progress under her instruction.

Amount of school money, \$89.59.

DISTRICT NUMBER FIVE, (LOVERING.)

Summer school by Miss Emma F. Noyes. The school is small and the attendance irregular, but the teacher is bright and ambitious and seemed very successful. The school appeared very well when visited.

Winter term by Miss Mary J. Cree. This school is still in session and the teacher though young seems especially adapted to her vocation. It has not been visited the last time for the winter term.

Amount of school money, \$94.83.

DISTRICT NUMBER SIX, (BRACKETT.)

Summer term of eight weeks by Miss Alma L. Little, She says in her remarks that she "received the co-operation of the parents generally and the scholars manifested a good degree of earnestness in gaining knowledge." When these two elements combine success is sure to crown the union. Miss Little has taken a new situation as teacher for life.

Winter term of twelve weeks by Walter Drew, a young teacher, but earnest and energetic and his school seemed profitable to nearly all the pupils.

Amount of school money, \$123.65.

DISTRICT NUMBER SEVEN, (KIDDERVILLE.)

Summer school of nine weeks by Miss Angeline Lovering, whose reputation as a teacher needs no commendation. She always succeeds.

Winter term was commenced by Mr. Henry Andrews, a young man of excellent capabilities but with hardly enough combativeness to cope with the exuberant *bean throwing* spirit of the youth of Kidderville, and consequently after six weeks of toil and strife, he laid down the book and the rod and took himself away. His place is filled by Benjamin W. Drew, who although he has taken to himself a wife, has not forgotten that he was formerly a teacher, and Drew is a first class subject for any body to eject from a school room. The

school has not been visited the last time, as it is still in session, but I have no hesitation whatever in saying it is now a success.

This district has been divided the last year, and a portion of it forms now, No. 13.

Amount of school money, \$225.83.

DISTRICT NUMBER EIGHT.(TITUS HILL.)

Summer school of eight weeks by Miss Alma J. Eastman, a young teacher, but quiet, unassuming and successful. The school is small and the school house utterly inadequate. It is hardly fit for cattle in the winter, and it is fortunate for the well being and comfort of the children that the committee or somebody else, caused the winter school to be kept in the fall, or the death rate on Titus Hill would have largely increased. Winter or fall school by Miss Mary P. Watson. Miss Watson is a model teacher, who practices system and order in such a way as not to be "fussy," but perfect in its way. Several large pupils attended this school from other districts and excellent progress was made.

Amount of school money, \$79.11.

DISTRICT NUMBER NINE,(HARVEY SWELL)

Summer school of seven weeks by Ellen J. Drew. This is one of the pleasantest and most profitable schools in town and the parents seem to be in earnest for the welfare, progress and improvement of their children. The teacher was an excellent one and the school appeared to good advantage.

Winter term of seven weeks by Mr. Holman A. Drew, a young teacher but with a natural capacity as a teacher, and he made the school a success. There are some of the best readers in town in this school.

Amount of school money, \$110.55.

DISTRICT NUMBER TEN,(WHITTEMORE.)

Summer school by Miss Mary J. Cree, who maintained perfect order and was an excellent teacher.

Winter term was commenced by Miss Angeline Lovering, who left it to take the winter school at the village, and it was finished by Miss S. Melinda Aldrich. Both these teachers are tried and true and the district is fortunate in obtaining such. It is something of a pity however that they provide no better school house, for the one now used is a libel on the word.

Amount of school money, \$84.55.

DISTRICT NUMBER ELEVEN, (MOHAWK.)

Summer school by Miss Mary Bedel. This was one of Miss Bedel's first terms, but the pupils all seemed fond of her and made good progress under her instruction.

Winter term by Miss Mary P. Watson, an excellent teacher and methodical in her manner of teaching. The school seemed orderly and to be making good progress.

Amount of school money, \$110.00.

DISTRICT NUMBER TWELVE, (GOODWIN.)

Summer term by Jennie E. Fletcher, a pleasant and profitable term.

The winter term was commenced by Miss Ella E. Brackett, but after four weeks she gave it up, having had trouble with some of the large scholars. The school was finished by Miss Ida Lovering, who finished it successfully for herself and her pupils.

On the whole the schools have done as well during the past year as they will average one year with another, and many of them much better.

If the parents would manifest as much interest in the welfare of their schools, and the comfort of their children in the school house, as they do for the pet horse or ox in the stable, much better results would appear from the expenditure of the money. Quite a number of the school houses are not as well adapted to the purposes for which they are designed and are not kept in as good repair as the stables of many of those who are the parents of the children.

Furthermore it is important, and I cannot urge it upon you too strongly, that you visit the school and encourage the teacher by your presence and counsel. No other business is entrusted solely to the supervision of hired agents, with never a word said, or a visit paid to them during all the time of their labor. If each parent in the district will pay the school one visit each term, the aggregate number would be large, and the good results surprising.

During the past school year, there has been one new district formed, three school district hearings, and the Selectmen, and S. S. Committee have found out the boundaries of the several districts, as nearly as possible, and made a plan of them all. A record of the limits of each district is to be made and recorded upon the books of the town.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. H. DUDLEY, S. S. Committee.

REPORT OF LIQUOR AGENT.

Town of Colebrook in account with Ira Quimby.

March 1, 1875.	Cr.
By Liquors and casks on hand,.....	\$100 65
“ Received for liquors and casks sold,.....	439 22
	<hr/>
	\$539 87
	Dr.
To Paid for liquors and casks.....	\$87 68
“ Cash paid for liquors and casks,.....	293 71
“ “ paid freight,.....	5 54
“ “ paid for book,.....	12
“ Agents salary,.....	60 00
“ Amount of profits,.....	92 82
	<hr/>
	\$539 87

Settled Feb. 29th 1876.

IRA QUIMBY, Agent.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

To the Town of Colebrook :

Your Auditors make the following report of the affairs of the Town for the year ending March 1, 1876.

By Cash on hand in Treasury,.....	\$ 1490.46
“ “ of State Treasurer, Savings bank tax,.....	33 59
“ “ “ “ “ Literary fund,.....	175.01
“ “ of Selectmen, county pauper claim.....	371.37
“ “ of Ira Quimby, liquor agent.....	152.82
“ “ of Selectmen, use of town hall.....	8.00
“ “ of Wm. H. Mulliken, Collector of 1874,....	800.00
“ “ of H. M. Leavitt, Collector of 1875,.....	9,600.00

There has been paid out as follows :

SCHOOL MONEY.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Prudential Committee.</i>	<i>School tax.</i>	<i>School fund.</i>
1.	Francis B. Crawford,.....	\$513.51	\$17.38
2.	Elbridge G. Arlin,.....	98.41	17.38
3.	Schuyler H. Aldrich,.....	72.21	17.38
4.	Ransom Harriman,.....	72 21	17.38
5.	Allen H. Forbes,.....	77.45	17.38
6.	George E. Hammond,.....	106.27	17.38
7.	Edgar A. Jordan & } David S Cummings }	208.45	17.38
8.	Aaron M. Gould,.....	61.73	17.38
9.	Simeon Cross,.....	93.17	17.38
10.	Francis Sweatt,.....	66.97	17.38
11.	Charles Tucker,.....	93.17	17.38
12.	Dan Fletcher,.....	77.45	17.38
Total,		\$1540.80	\$203.56

FOR HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

S. K. Remick, work in 1874,.....	\$266 84
B. R. Gilman, work in 1874,.....	5 00
Ransom Harriman, work in 1874,.....	19 50
Sela Stacy, plank used in 1874,	4 40
Michael Shallow, work in 1874,.....	5 31

The foregoing bills accrued in the year 1874-5

John S. Capen, labor on highway,.....	10 00
H. E. Cummings, labor on highway,.....	6 00
Calvin B. Gould, labor on highway,.....	3 00
Henry W. Woodrow, building new road near Jordan's,..	152 89
H. H. McAllaster, labor on highway,.....	2 00
S. B. Whittemore, building highway,.....	100 00
John Gould, labor on highway,.....	6 35
Milton Harriman, building bridge.....	55 00
S. B. Whittemore, cattle pass,.....	30 00
Rich & Spencer, highway and bridge,.....	244 44
Charles Chappel, bridge on Hollow road,.....	101 50
Edwin R. Cilley, highway and bridge.....	25 00
Charles Chappel, watercourse,.....	10 00
Benj. Aldrich Jr., building bridge,.....	100 00
Barzilla Fellows, labor on highway,.....	20 00
John S. Little, highway,.....	93 40
Davis Graham, highway,	3 00
James A. Gould, highway,.....	12 00
Freeman E. Merrill, highway,.....	3 00
H. Bedel, plank for highways,.....	17 87
H. H. Lawrence, for highway,.....	5 50
Edgar A. Jordan,.....	4 40
Simeon Cross, bridge,.....	7 04
Wm Aldrich, labor on highway,.....	20 00
James Spreadbury, highway,.....	4 28
Elisha P. Hook, timber for bridge,.....	10 00
Ransom Harriman, highway,.....	10 00
Albert J. Bean, labor on highway,.....	12 00
Henry W. Woodrow, labor on highway,.....	11 30

Charles Tucker, labor on highway,.....	6 00
David Jeffers, labor on highway,.....	5 00
L. A. Lovering, labor on highway,.....	4 50
Charles Hicks, 2d, labor on highway,.....	3 13
Rich & Spencer on Jordan bridge and plank.....	57 44
Seth H. Grapes,.....	7 00
Albert Hicks, labor on highway,.....	1 00
James L. Loomis, labor on highway,.....	3 00
S. R. & S. S. Merrill, bridge,.....	8 46
Benj. Aldrich, Jr., labor on highway,.....	13 00
Dexter A. Jordan, labor on highway,.....	5 00
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Total,	1499.55

PAID PAUPER BILLS.

Warren Covell, for Jane Covell,.....	\$37 05
Gathercole & Marshall, for Levi Grover,.....	5 12
C. C. Norris, attending Annis,.....	31 25
Edwin R. Cilley, for Polly Cree.....	39 16
John S. Chase, grave for Mrs. Kimball,.....	4 00
F. C. Harris, for Ira Annis.....	2 25
A. J. Cummings, for H. McAllister.....	129 05
James M. Hartwell, for H. McAllister,.....	18 46
Wentworth & Capen, for H. McAllister,.....	16 45
Thos. J. Rowan, for Deveau.....	75 50
Ira Quimby, coffin for Deveau.....	14 00
E. D. Lombard, for Deveau,.....	21 16
Wentworth & Capen, for paupers,.....	64 11
C. C. Norris, for paupers,.....	24 00
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Total,	\$481 56
Of this Amount the county has paid back,.....	361 37
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Leaving for town paupers,.....	120 19

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

B. W. Sanborn, for blanks.....	\$11 35
Jos. Y. Covell, damage on highway.....	10 00
Edgar A. Jordan, land damage.....	18 33
Dan. C. Bumford, watering trough.....	3 00
Dan. C. Bumford, damage on sleigh.....	5 00
Harrison Severance, land damage.....	275 00
David Heath, witness fees in town pauper case.....	2 00
Charles N. Cummings, watering trough.....	3 00
Hiram B. Gould, damage on road.....	150 00
Commissioners and Sheriff fees in discontinuing highway,	20 62
Geo. A. Bingham, fees in Carleton case.....	76 00
Geo. A. Bingham, fees in Gould cases.....	48 00
Geo. A. Bingham, fees in Wiggin case.....	61 00
Ray & Drew, fees in Hollow Road case.....	90 00
John A. Cleaveland, watering trough.....	2 09
H. M. Leavitt, abatements.....	31 10
Jesse Forristall, wood for Town Hall.....	4 50
Albert Barker, printing blanks.....	3 50
Ira Quimby, summoning witnesses.....	74
William H. Mulliken, abatements.....	10 45
J. H. Dudley, fees in discontinuing highway.....	25 00
J. H. Dudley, fees in Gould cases.....	12 00
J. H. Dudley, fees in Wiggin case.....	30 00
J. H. Dudley, fees in Geo. Aldrich petition.....	14 00
J. W. Spencer, watering trough.....	3 00
John Cilley, damage to sleigh.....	2 00
Benj. R. Gilman, auditors' fees.....	4 00
J. H. Dudley, Auditors' fees.....	4 00
Printing town reports, A. Barker.....	31 75
Total,	\$947 43

INDEBTEDNESS PAID.

Gilman Corser, Interest on note.....	\$12 21
Stephen Morrison, Interest on note.....	300 00
Milton Harvey, Interest on note.....	627 50
Gilman Corser, indorsed on note.....	50 00
“ “ “	59 00
Colebrook Academy, note and interest.....	272 00
Total,	\$1,320 71

AMOUNT OF DEBTS OUTSTANDING AGAINST THE TOWN OF COLEBROOK,
MARCH 1, 1876.

March 1, 1869. Colebrook Academy, one note,	\$1000 00
Nov. 1, 1869. Samuel Pratt, one note and interest,	107 50
Aug. 1, 1870. Milton Harvey, one note and interest,	5500 00
Aug. 18, 1871. Milton Harvey, one note and interest,	4509 00
Aug. 19, 1871. Stephen Morrison, one note and interest,	3005 50
Sept. 1, 1871. Gilman Corser, one note,	250 00
Sept. 1, 1871. Jeremiah Young, one note,	2000 00
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Total,	\$16372 00

ASSETS.

Cash on hand,	864 67
Cash in hands of Collector of 1874,	581 50
Cash in hands of Collector of 1875,	2535 51
	<hr/> \$3981 72

Indebtedness less assets,	12380 28
Indebtedness less assets March 1, 1875,	13806 25
Indebtedness less assets March 1, 1876,	12380 28
Decrease in debt,	<hr/> \$1426 05

Your Auditors further report that they have looked over the accounts of the selectmen and treasurer and find them properly vouched for and correctly cast, but they did not consider it their duty, and have not undertaken to decide upon the propriety of the charges.

Your Auditors further report that there was raised last year for highways besides the amount in labor, \$900; to defray town charges, \$600; for the support of the poor, \$300; for schools, \$300 in addition to the amount required by statute; to pay town indebtedness \$3000.

And they recommend that a like amount be raised for said purposes for the coming year.

All of which is respectfully submitted:

J. H. DUDLEY. }
BENJ. R. GILMAN, } AUDITORS

March 1st, 1876.

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